

Tropical America at Miami Metrozoo

Project Budget: \$80,000

Project Description

The proposed Tropical America exhibit at the Miami Metrozoo will explore the three regions of the American tropics; Mesoamerica (Cloud Forest), Amazonia, and the Mata Atlantic Forest. Thematic exhibitions focusing on fun and informative scientific experiences will allow visitors to explore the rich and diverse natural habitats of the Tropical Americas. The exhibits will promote understanding of the natural, biological and cultural value of these tropical regions, while inspiring visitors to act ecologically responsible after leaving the zoo.

Opportunities for Public Art

Several areas exist to create public art depicting or alluding to the themes, environment, plants, animals and natural processes of Mesoamerica, Amazonia and the Mata Atlantic.

Opportunities for art include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1.) **Mata Atlantic Pavilion**-This partially enclosed building will combine vernacular architecture with rich tropical plant and animal life. Within the pavilion and garden, the precious jewels of the rapidly disappearing Atlantic Forest will be exhibited in an intimate setting. Enclosed by architectural walls and trellis, the space will provide two “art walls” that could communicate the interaction, dependence or conflict between human cultures and their natural environment. The art could draw from the history and culture of one of the most populated and developed of the three tropical areas, focusing on the exotic and rapidly disappearing species of the Atlantic Forest and/or the crucial conservation efforts of this region.
- 2.) **The Amazonia Exhibit Path**-Set within the Terra Firma forest of the Amazonia region, artwork along the exhibit path could communicate to the visitor the immensity of the trees that inhabit this forest, the delicate balance between plant and animal life, the vastness of the region and the importance of conserving it.
- 3.) **The North and South Promenade**-Artwork along the promenades could be used to prepare visitors for the experience of Tropical America, reflecting the cultural or biological themes from the diverse tropical rain forests of the Americas.